

today. These are the hard numbers—the facts that back up the need for a balanced budget. I could stand here all day and talk numbers. But, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, balancing the budget is not about numbers—it is about people. People like our children and grandchildren that will bear the burden of today's fiscal irresponsibility. It is about letting taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned money. It is about who can spend money better, the Federal Government or the American family. It is about lower interest rates so families can afford to buy a home and live the American dream. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress is serious about balancing the budget—the President needs to start doing what he said he would do, and work with this Congress to give the American people what they deserve—a balanced budget.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 155, A CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that we have an extreme disagreement about this budgeting process. Many of us disagree that we should take \$245 billion as a tax cut to give to those making over \$200,000. That is a fair debate, Mr. Speaker. But what we should not be doing is holding hostage public servants who need to provide services for Americans.

I agree with the Speaker of the House that it is morally wrong and indefensible to have Federal workers in the crossfire. Again, Mr. Speaker, I agree with that. This is why House Joint Resolution 155, a clean continuing resolution that I introduced with over 40 original cosponsors will open this Government entirely for the veterans, for those receiving Social Security, for those receiving Meals on Wheels, for the NASA employees preparing now to launch another *Challenger*, for passports for businesses in Houston, TX, who are being blocked by not being able to do their business, and the missionaries that cannot go and do missionary work.

Mr. Speaker, pass a clean continuing resolution that will open this Government today, House Joint Resolution 155.

IN SUPPORT OF A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. FRISA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand tall in this Congress as a freshman Republican, because for the first time in more than a lifetime Congress has done its job. We have done the hard work to balance our budget with no gimmicks and no tricks.

But our big spending President refuses to do his job. He talks. He ducks.

He zigs. He zags. He flips and he flops. But the one thing the President will not do is his job. That is to present the balanced budget.

I think the American people, Mr. Speaker, should call the White House at 202-456-1414. Ask the President where is his balanced budget. America demands it for our children and our grandchildren. It is about time the President rolled up his sleeves and did the hard work for America.

TAX DOLLARS NOT AT WORK

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today is day 21 of the Government shutdown. Again, your tax dollars are not at work. But it does appear that the haze may be lifting a bit on the Republican side. Even these self-styled revolutionaries seem to have figured out that Government operations are essential and that we should not be abusing the taxpayers' employees by having them out of work.

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The only problem is, while they are proposing to send them back to work with pay, they are not proposing to fund the operations and functions that they perform. It seems highly questionable. Let us take a look.

Toxic waste inspections that preserve our clean water cannot be performed, health inspections may not be able to be performed. Occupational safety inspections may not be performed, and trade operations at the Department of Commerce may not be performed, these trade operations which create jobs.

So, although the haze may be lifting a little bit, there is still a lot of confusion because the employees are at work, but they cannot do their jobs.

IT IS TIME TO GET THE FEDERAL WORKERS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was moved today to hear the comments of a young man from Baltimore at a rally outside here, a Federal employee talking about the hardships that this furlough has placed on him and his young family, and I place the following in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Like the rest of you who are here today, I am a furloughed Federal Government employee . . . and I am essential.

I work for the Health Care Financing Administration in Baltimore, Maryland. At HCFA, I work to assure that all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries receive quality health care. While my fellow furlough workers and I are not at work, millions of beneficiaries run the risk of not receiving quality health care. This is an extremely serious matter.

I am here today to explain to President Clinton, Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich, Dick

Armey and other House Republicans what it means to be on furlough while the Government continues to be shut down.

I am not alone. My situation is not unique.

This past summer I got engaged to be married. My fiancé is a full time graduate student. We knew this year was going to be tough managing on one income. Not this tough. The rent is still due on the 1st of the month. Creditors want their payments. Tuition needs to be paid. Our lives will go on, but not without some serious pain.

The furlough not only has affected my state of finances, but also my state of mind. First, our political leaders declare us "not essential"—an ultimate slap in the face. Then they allow this Government Shutdown to continue through Christmas and New Years—Happy Holidays everyone. Lastly, we have been told that we will receive back pay. This, however, does not keep the creditors at bay.

We deserve the respect we are entitled to. We serve because we want to serve. We work for the Federal Government because we want to help the public. Are the negotiators really helping the public? I think not.

Here we are standing in front of the U.S. Capitol. A symbol of Democracy. An institution where leaders debate over differences in ideology. In the past, these debates have ended in compromise. Compromise is the name of the game. If an individual decides to come to Washington, DC to serve, he or she must understand the importance of compromise. I urge the negotiators to reach a compromise on the budget so we can put this behind us.

As a result of the budget impasse, federal workers are being used as pawns. But the real loser is the American Public.

Enough is enough. Again, we urge you, send us back to work.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that it is time to get the hostages off the plane. It is time to get the Federal workers back to work. They have been unintended victims of this. We are on the verge of at least paying them for the time that some of them have missed, and some of them have been working and not been paid, and now it is time to get the rest of them back to work and performing the duties of Government.

I favor a clean continuing resolution, but, if we cannot get that, I am for taking whatever steps we can toward moving this Government to open again.

My message to both the President and the congressional leaders is let us negotiate this out, and to the President it is let us see what his balanced budget is. We know he does not like what his balanced budget is. We know he does not like what has come from this side. I would like to see what he proposes in comparison.

I hope that they will work this out in the very near future. We are going to give them until January 26 to work this out.

ARE THERE NOT JUST 21 RESPONSIBLE REPUBLICANS?

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Capital crisis, shutdown II, day 21, and we are looking for just 21

responsible Republicans, just 21 Republicans who have the common sense and courage to put country above party conference, just 21 Republicans who have the heart to help moms and dads and families in distress, just 21 Republicans who will have the honesty to recognize the destructiveness of the course set by the Republican leadership driven by its most extreme faction, just 21 Republicans who can publicly act on the convictions they have privately acknowledged.

Are there not just 21 Republicans in the House of Representatives who will follow the leadership of Senator DOLE, who aspires to lead the country? What mob psychology prevails to prevent just 21 Republicans from doing what is right, just 21 Republicans to say, with BOB DOLE, enough is enough?

WE DO NOT NEED 21 REPUBLICANS, WE NEED 1 PRESIDENT TO OFFER A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. GUNDERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, we do not need 21 Republicans. We need one President, just one President that will offer this country a balanced budget. That is all it takes, just one President to keep his word to offer a balanced budget, and we will get on with the process, the Government will run, and we will get this thing solved.

As my colleagues know, the fact is the President signed into law a continuing resolution. That continuing resolution committed that we would have by January 3 of this year a bipartisan balanced budget agreement. The President has not even submitted a balanced budget proposal.

People wonder why negotiations are not going anywhere. How can they go anywhere? We do not have anything to negotiate. We have no idea where the President stands on taxes. We have no idea where the President stands on domestic spending. We have no idea how the President suggests we ought to achieve a balanced budget. He says he is for one, and that is good, so let us see it.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues do not need 21 Republicans. They need one President to offer a balanced budget.

SUPPORT THE CLEAN CR

(Mr. OLIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. The extremists among the House Republicans are finally realizing the public's opposition to their hostage-taking tactics. So why are they still playing games?

Mr. Speaker, the other body, the Senate, has already passed a clean continuing resolution, and there are moderate Republican House Members who

agree with letting the entire Government operate this month while negotiations continue. The House Republican leaders should get the message and stop wasting taxpayer dollars.

I am adding my name to the clean CR introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] which allows all Federal employees to do their jobs while they get paid. Every Member of this House should support a full restoration of Government services and end this pointless gridlock.

CRISIS CREATES SOME OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, what an incredible irony, this budget crisis that we are facing and have been going through for the past several weeks. The irony is that we have found that devolution is working because this crisis has created an opportunity for it. We saw the President in his news conference the other night talk about the pain that will be created, has been created, with this Government shutdown, the Meals on Wheels Program in jeopardy, unemployment benefits not being paid, Medicare recipients not being reimbursed, Medicare providers not being reimbursed.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that was nothing more than a sky-is-falling speech that the President gave.

This morning on National Public Radio a very interesting piece was provided in which they went around the country and talked in a number of States with those involved with the Meals on Wheels Program, Medicare providers, those who were dealing with the unemployment benefits issue, and State and local governments are in many instances, not all, but in many instances, picking up the responsibility there. So we have, in fact, got a tremendous opportunity to deal responsibly with this issue, and devolution is going to work.

LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR LEADERS ARE SAYING

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I come over to the Republican side of the aisle today to speak and to quote Republican leaders.

From BOB DOLE:

Enough is enough. I do not see any sense in what we are doing. I would hope that we would have a quick action in the House. People have been gone from their jobs long enough. Enough is enough.

In addition, I quote another great Republican leader, NEWT GINGRICH:

As a former Army brat I believe it is morally wrong and indefensible that Federal workers are in the cross-fire.

The reckless Republican right have left their leaders. I say to my col-

leagues on the Republican side, "Please, come to your senses. Act like adults. It is indefensible what is going on, and it cannot be defended."

For those who saw "Nightline" last night, shame, shame, shame for those who were trying to defend this position. It is impossible. My colleagues should look at what their leaders are saying.

I say to the reckless right, "Please, for the good of the country, listen to your leaders. End this shutdown today, this afternoon, now."

A CONTINUING RESOLUTION IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] has asked for 21 responsible Members of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives to come forward. There will be 236 responsible Members of the Republican Party coming forward today, and we will indeed provide the quick action and the morally responsible position that has been referred to by previous speakers.

It is the lost liberal left and the President in the White House who is listening to them that has caused this problem.

Mr. Speaker, we have had 40 years of business as usual, our social contracts are in disarray, our quality of life is down in this country, we are \$5 trillion poorer because these social programs do not work, and the best that the other side can come up with is more business as usual, a continuing resolution is the answer. It is not the answer.

The answer is to do what we are trying to do; that is, a balanced budget in 7 years with real numbers, and to get the President of the United States to live up to his pledge to do it.

A VERY EXPENSIVE THEATER TICKET FOR THE TAXPAYERS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as one who is prepared to leave this body, with my quasi-emeritus status let me say I think this institution is in one "mell of a hess" today. It is in terrible shape. We have Democrats coming down and citing their agreement with the Republican leaders, and we see the reckless right on their side having abandoned their leaders. We are having to cite their leaders, and they are running from their leaders.

What is going on? Mr. Speaker, we have now spent over \$1.5 billion on this shutdown, this little political theater. That is a very expensive theater ticket. Taxpayers ought to be very angry about that.

But this is not enough for the reckless right. Now they want to impeach